

PUBLIC MEETING NOTICE
Bald Butte Mine and Mill Site and Great Divide Sand Tailings Site Reclamation Projects
The Montana Department of Environmental Quality
The U.S. Bureau of Land Management

The Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) will hold a public meeting to present information and receive public comment on the proposed reclamation of the Bald Butte Mine Sites and Great Divide Sand Tailings Site near Marysville in Lewis and Clark County. The meeting is being conducted jointly by the DEQ and Bureau of Land Management (BLM).

The public meeting is scheduled for 6:00 p.m., Thursday, March 5, 2009, at the Old School House on the corner of 2nd and Grand Streets in Marysville. The public is encouraged to attend and will have an opportunity to comment.

The DEQ Mine Waste Cleanup Bureau is proposing to reclaim tailings and waste rock material and prevent continued run off of heavy metals into Dog Creek, a tributary of the Little Blackfoot River. The contamination poses a threat to human health and the environment. The contaminants of concern are arsenic, lead and other heavy metals. The Bald Butte Sites include the Bald Butte Mine and Mill Site, the Devon/Sterling Mine Site and the Albion Mine Site. They are located approximately 17 miles northwest of Helena and three miles southwest of Marysville on the west side of the Continental Divide.

To prevent run off of heavy metals into Jennie's Fork, a tributary of Silver Creek, the BLM is proposing to reclaim tailings, which pose an environmental risk. The Great Divide Sand Tailings Site is located nearly one mile west of Marysville.

Expanded Engineering Evaluation and Cost Analysis (EEE/CA) have been prepared for DEQ and BLM proposed reclamation projects, as well as an Addendum to the Bald Butte EEE/CA for a joint BLM/DEQ repository. Several alternatives for mine reclamation at the sites are analyzed in the EEE/CAs. One of the preferred alternatives is the excavation and removal of about 180,000 cubic yards of tailings and waste rock material and disposal in a shared, engineered repository, located approximately two miles from the sites. The EEE/CA can be accessed by visiting <http://deq.mt.gov/AbandonedMines/priority.asp>.

Following selection of reclamation alternatives, construction plans and bid packages will be prepared. Repository construction and dewatering of waste, or stream diversion, could take place this summer.

The Bald Butte Mine Sites are abandoned hard rock mines and a mill that operated in the late 1800s. The Great Divide Sand Tailings Site likely resulted from milling operations at the nearby Bald Mountain Mill in the early 1900s.

For more information about the public meeting or the reclamation project, contact Steve Opp of the DEQ Mine Waste Cleanup Bureau at (406) 841-5030 or sopp@mt.gov or Corey Meier of BLM at (406) 533-7640 or corey_meier@blm.gov. The DEQ will make reasonable

accommodations for persons with disabilities who wish to participate in this meeting. If you require an accommodation, please contact Mary Ann Dunwell at (406) 841-5016 or mdunwell@mt.gov.



Remediation

